

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1324
By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Representative
Raymond B. Walker on his meritorious service
as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this Body should recognize those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented devotion and whose efforts to excel have brought substantial benefits to their respective communities and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative Raymond B. Walker's illustrious career in the House of Representatives will come to an end at the adjournment sine die of the 2004 Session of the 103rd General Assembly, as he has announced his retirement from this august Body; and

WHEREAS, Representative Walker has for many years been a prominent and highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of Rhea, Bledsoe and Cumberland Counties, and he has served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, in November of 1996, the good people of House District 25 evinced their great faith in the political and governmental capabilities of Raymond B. Walker by electing him as their representative to the General Assembly, a position in which he has performed admirably; and

WHEREAS, during his four terms and eight years in the House of Representatives, Representative Walker has been prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes his conscience; and

WHEREAS, Representative Walker is a dynamic and aggressive participant in the legislative process and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for the

outstanding contributions he has made as a member of the Agriculture Committee; Commerce Committee; Finance, Ways and Means Committee; Industrial Impact Subcommittee; and the Joint TennCare Oversight Committee; and

WHEREAS, known as a consensus-builder in the House who is able to bring various factions together to pass legislation, in 2000 Rep. Walker was named Chairman of the House GOP's TennCare Task Force, a five-month effort that took a multi-faceted look at the ailing program that resulted in numerous specific recommendations to bring about much needed improvement; and

WHEREAS, in September of 2000, Speaker of the House Jimmy Naifeh appointed Representative Walker, who sponsored the enabling legislation, to a special commission to aid mentally ill and developmentally disabled citizens in accessing services in their community; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Raymond B. Walker was elected to serve as the Delegate from House District 25 to the Constitutional Convention in Nashville and served with distinction in this important position; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards or accolades during his career, Representative Raymond Walker has previously been named the Dayton Young Man of the Year, recognized as the University of Tennessee William and Mary Hale "Family of the Year", and received the Tennessee Farmers Life Round Table Award for the last 15 years in addition to the Quality Business Award for 90% Persistency and Excellent Service; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of citizenship, Representative Walker has served as a valuable member of many civic and governmental organizations, including the Dayton Rotary Club, the Board of Economic Development Council, the Board of Natural Resource Conservation Committee, the Rhea County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, Dayton Chamber of Commerce, Rhea County United Way, Rhea County Medical Center, Dayton Jaycees, JCI, Sweetwater Valley Life Underwriters Association, the Life Underwriters Political Committee and the National Association of Life Underwriters; and

WHEREAS, a native Tennessean born in Spring City on April 25, 1935, Representative Walker is Agency Manager of the Rhea County Farm Bureau and is a graduate of Multi-Line

Skills Insurance with the designation of LUTCF and the Dale Carnegie Speaking and Human Relations Program; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure in the House of Representatives, Raymond Walker has worked assiduously to improve the lives of the citizens of House District 25 and was instrumental in securing grants of over \$8 million for various county and city infrastructure projects, securing road improvement funding for Peavine Road and Lantana Road and obtaining funds for Roane State Community College building projects and the modernization of the pharmacy at Cumberland Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Raymond Walker is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Sue Ann; they are the proud parents of two devoted children; and

WHEREAS, Representative Walker's announcement of his retirement from the General Assembly has greatly disappointed and disconcerted his fellow lawmakers, Democrats and Republicans alike, and his considerable talents and energies will be sorely missed by the good people of House District 25; and

WHEREAS, this Body finds it appropriate to bid farewell to our friend and colleague, Representative Raymond B. Walker; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Representative Raymond B. Walker on his meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of House District 25.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to Raymond B. Walker our best wishes for much success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Representative Raymond B. Walker as a token of our esteem.